Bell, Howard Wilmerding 1916-1918

[Harvard University, Division of Fine Arts,
Cambridge, MA]

May 1st, 1916.

CAMBRIDGE 1325.

1737 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Sir,

I have undertaken to prepare for publication the coins found during the excavations at Assos, in the Troad, in the early 'eighties.

The excavations were carried on by the American Institute of Archaeology, and the coins are the property of the

Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

My catalogue of them is complete, with the exception of the two coins which I send herewith, at the suggestion of Dr. Fairbanks. One of them is an early (? Ionian) piece of gold or electrum; which the second is, I should judge, an issue of a semi-barbarous community in the Danubian region, during the period of the Empire.

I am unable, however, to determine just what they are, and am sending them to you in the hope that you may be able to enlighten me.

Dr. Fairbanks further informs me that you have a particularly good process of making casts of coins for photographic purposes; and he has asked me to inquire if you could recommend anyone to prepare casts of some of the Roman coins for plates in the forthcoming publication. The Museum's restorer has never been successful, I believe, in his attempts.

Trusting that I am not too much inconvenicning you by my requests,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. W. Bell.

Howland Wood, Esq.
American Numismatic Society,
New York.

December 15, 1916.

Mr. H. W. Bell
1737 Cambridge Street,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Bell:-

I have heard indirectly that a Mr. Pierre la Rose of 1737 Cambridge Street is a numismatist. This is the same address as you have therefore I suppose you know all about him. Would it not be a good thing to propose him to membership in this Society?

Mr. Newell is back from his trip west but may be away again the week between Christmas and New Years, as will the writer as well.

Trust ing to see you here some time in January, I am,

Yours very truly,

December 8th, 1918.

CAMBRIDGE 1325.

1737 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Mr. Wood,

A friend has asked me if I could dispose of some coins for him, or at least ascertain their values. They are four in number, & this is their description:

I. Georgius III Dei Gratia. Laureate bust r., undraped.

Rev. M·B·F·ET·H·REX·F·D·B·ET·L·D·S·R·I·A·T·ET·E· 1788 Spade & shaped

shield with crown. Milled edge. Gold.
(I believe it is a guinea)

II.

Exactly similar; date 1798. Gold
(I believe it is either a ½ guinea or a
½ sov.) Pierced above head.

III. Georgius. III Dei. Gratia. Similar
bust, but hair more elaborately rendered.
Rev. Inscrip. similar, but date
1776 at top. Shield of florid Louis XV
type. Milled edge. Gold. Same size as
no. I.

IV HANC TUEMUR HAC NITIMUR
Standing female. cf. illustration in Engel et
Serrure ~~ii~~ i, p. 94.
Rev. MO: ARG: ORD: FŒD: BELG: TRAI·

Shield, surmounted by crown, bearing crowned lion rampant, holding in r. sword, in l. sheaf of arrows. To l. & r. of shield, X ST Above crown, 17 95 Milled edge. Silver. Ring soldered to edge.

No II is somewhat rubbed. No III is in admirable condition. No I is good. No IV is good on obv., but upper part of shield is rubbed.

I should be very much obliged to you if you could let me know approximately what these are worth, & still more if you could suggest any one as a purchaser.

I expect to be in New York after Xmas, and shall hope to get up to 156 th St. I hope you and Mr. Newell are well.

Sincerely yours.

H. W. Bell